CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1515
27 May 1998

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AT CARTAGENA ON 19 MAY 1998 CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR TESTS RECENTLY CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia at the Ministerial Meeting of the Bureau of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries at Cartagena on 19 May 1998 concerning the nuclear tests recently conducted by the Government of India.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for its distribution to all members and participating delegations of the Conference on Disarmament as an official document of the Conference.

(Signed) Agus Tarmidzi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.98-61836

STATEMENT BY
H.E. Mr. ALI ALATAS
FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDONESIA
made at Cartagena on 19 May 1998

"The recent nuclear tests conducted by a Member of our Movement have inevitably added to the complexity of issues related to non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament which have been addressed by the international community since the advent of the atomic age. We sincerely regret this development. Indonesia is a party to the NPT and signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and, hence by definition, cannot condone the carrying out of nuclear weapon tests by any country at any time.

Indonesia fully acknowledges the sovereign right of states to determine their own security requirements and the means to ensure them, but as a non-nuclear weapon state, we are of the view that such a security policy should be implemented without recourse to nuclear arms.

It is undeniable, however, that the possession of these weapons by the five nuclear powers has conferred untenable privileges, incompatible with the sovereign equality of all states as enshrined in the UN Charter. As long as these are maintained, there will always be an incentive for the non-nuclear weapon states to acquire nuclear-weapon capability. Hence, we call on the nuclear weapon states to fully implement both the letter and the spirit of agreements relating to non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and on all states to refrain from developing these weapons and thereby facilitate the attainment of the ultimate goal of the elimination of all nuclear weapons."